

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08426 201322Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

RSR-01 AID-20 IGA-02 /117 W

----- 008972

R 200945Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5678

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJ: INDO/BANGLADESH TALKS ON FARAKKA

SUMMARY: LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED DURING THIS WEEK'S INDO-BANGLADESH CABINET LEVEL TALKS ON DIVERSION OF GANGES WATERS BY THE INDIAN BUILT FARAKKA BARRAGE. THE KEY ISSUE OF DRY SEASON FLOW OF THE GANGES INTO BANGLADESH, THE LOWER RIPARIAN, APPARENTLY HAS BEEN LEFT TO BE NEGOTIATED BY RESPECTIVE PRIME MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. A JOINT PRESS RELEASE ISSUED JULY 18 FOLLOWING TALKS BETWEEN INDIAN DELEGATION LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH AND BANGLADESH TEAM HEADED BY K.M. AHMED, MINISTER OF FLOOD CONTROL, WATER RESOURCES AND POWER, NOTES THAT "...MATTERS CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN RIVERS WHICH ARE COMMON TO BOTH COUNTRIES WILL BE SETTLED THROUGH MUTUAL DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE OF BOTH THE COUNTRIES. THIS WILL BE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6 OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, CO-OPERATION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08426 201322Z

AND PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE STATUTE OF THE INDO-

BANGLADESH JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION".

2. PRESS RELEASE WENT ON TO STATE THAT DISCUSSIONS "DEALT MAINLY" WITH THE EXPECTED EFFECTS OF THE OPENING OF THE FEEDER CANAL TO CARRY WATER DIVERTED AT FARAKKA DIRECTLY TO THE BHAGIRATTI HOOGHLY. THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM--DIVERSION OF WATER DURING THE DRY MONTHS WAS NOT MENTIONED, BUT THE PRESS RELEASE STATED "...THE FARAKKA BARRAGE PROJECT WILL NOT INCREASE THE FLOOD INTENSITY OF PADMA IN BANGLADESH". IN FINAL PARAGRAPH IT NOTED THAT "...THE TWO SIDES WILL MEET AGAIN AND CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIEW TO ARRIVING AT A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. THE TWO SIDES FURTHER AGREED THAT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WILL BE ARRIVED AT BEFORE OPERATING THE FARAKKA BARRAGE PROJECT".

3. PRESS HAD MADE MUCH OF FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NAMED TO HEAD INDIAN SIDE SHORTLY BEFORE TALKS BEGAN IN PLACE OF IRRIGATION AND

POWER MINISTER K.L. RAO. APPARENT FAILURE OF TWO SIDES TO REACH AGREEMENT IS BEING INTERPRETED TO MEAN DISCUSSION ON DIVISION OF GANGES WATERS WILL BE WORKED OUT ONLY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES' PRIME MINISTERS. KNOWLEDGEABLE MEA OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD EMBASSY FINAL DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT "HIGHEST LEVEL".

4. COMMENT: THE GOI WANTED TO HANDLE FARAKKA IN THE CONTEXT OF BROADER TALKS ON JOINT INDO-BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,

WHICH WOULD HAVE PERMITTED SOME TRADE-OFFS. BANGLADESH, HOWEVER, HAS PUSHED FOR THE SEPARATE NEGOTIATION ON FARAKKA. IT IS A DIFFICULT ISSUE TO RESOLVE IN ISOLATION, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE BANGLADESH ATTACHES TO THE QUESTION AND THE UNLIKELIHOOD BANGLADESH WILL SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN PAKISTAN DEMANDED IN THE PAST. FOREIGN MINISTRY

OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS CONFRONTATION WHICH FORCES INDIA TO COMPROMISE IN FAVOR OF EITHER CALCUTTA (WHICH WILL BENEFIT BY THE FLUSHING ACTION OF THE WATER DIVERTED INTO THE HOOGHLY)

OR BANGLADESH. ASSUMING THE ALREADY LONG DELAYED FEEDER CANAL IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08426 201322Z

READY AS FORECAST BY EARLY 1974, A DECISION ON DIVISION OF FLOW DURING DRY SEASON WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE COMPLETION OF FEEDER CANAL WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL LATE SPRING WHEN DRY SEASON ENDS AND BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO POSTPONE DECIDING THE MOST DIFFICULT FACTOR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.
MOYUOHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER RIGHTS, WATER DIVERSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE08426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730720/aaaaaooo.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO/BANGLADESH TALKS ON FARAKKA SUMMARY: LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005